



PHOTOGRAPHY/ DON GRAYSTON

A crowd gathers at Fort Douglas for the dedication of a park that took 12 years to complete.

Fort Douglas celebrates 124 years with dedication of park and statue

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Fort Douglas celebrated its 124th birthday Sunday with the dedication of a brand new historical park.

The park, which has been in the planning stages for 12 years, was presented to the U.S. Army and the state by retired Maj. Gen. M.B. Kauffman. "Since 1974, I've wanted to get this park built," said Kauffman, a former commander at the installation and former president of the Fort Douglas Museum Association. "We've finally done it."

Located just east of the Fort Douglas Museum in the center of the installation, the park was built with more than \$100,000 in donated materials and labor, Kauffman said. When Kauffman first proposed the idea of building the park

at no cost to the government, the response of the secretary of the Army was somewhat skeptical.

"I guess dealing with generals in the Pentagon made him suspicious, so he wrote me and said to put up a \$5,000 good-faith bond or shut up," Kauffman said. "We put up the bond and have been working ever since."

Several hundred people turned out for the ceremonies, which included acceptance of the park by Maj. Gen. James R. Hall Jr. on behalf of the Army and Gov. Norman H. Bangerter on behalf of the state.

"This park will provide a place not only for the personnel at Fort Douglas, but for all citizens of Utah and the country to come and reflect on the sacrifices of those who served here," said Hall, the commander of Fort Carson, Colo., and

Please see PARK on B-2

